TESTIMONIAL TO AN OVERLOOKER.

Looking over your last Saturday's impression (as is my custom), I saw a report of a presentation of a snuff-box as a testimonial to an architect, and it occurred to me that working men were too slow in taking advantage of the press to make known thereby their doings. Believing you would feel a pleasure in helping them in this, I make free to tell you that, within the last fortnight, an elegant silver cup, with a suitable inscription, has been presented to Mr. William Conquest, nearly twenty-five years principal foreman in the joiners' department of Mr. T. Cubitt's establishment at Thames-bank, on his retirement. It was given "as a mark of respect for his uniform kindness and due consideration for their comforts, during his superintendence over them for several years."

I think, Sir, you will agree with me, that an instance like the present, which seldom occurs, deserves to be chronicled. I verily believe that the disposition of the employer was so in unison with the foreman, to act justly by the men, that he met with little or no obstacle from that quarter, for he enjoys the character (and deservedly too) of being second to no other employer in the desire to see his workmen provided with every comfort and convenience necessary to their wants. I think the presentation of this testimonial fully testifies that working men are not wanting in gratitude when the opportunity offers, and that we have shown by this that we can appreciate good and kind treatment. We trust this kindly feeling between foreman and men, the employer and the employed, may spread and extend to all classes of society, and bring about a happier future. A Workman.

SIGHTS AND SCENERY.

Haymarket Theatre.—The Adelphi company, who have moved to these more "extensive premises," have produced a piece of fun and murder called "The Writing on the Wall," wherein the Model Farms and Farmers get a harmless and amusing rub. Fancy Mr. Wright entering upon a farm, determined that his workpeople shall have proper recreation; that his cows shall not be milked if they do not like it; that all shall be dressed alike and do everything in order; see him bothered by a 'cute countryman who has sold him the place, with the simple proviso that he may come in *when he pleases*, just to get a drop of water; the pigs all out, and no one to put in the corn when it rains; and you may get a notion of the comic part of the piece. The graver part is very well played by Mr. Emery, Miss Woolgar, and Miss Chaplain.

Vauxhall Gardens.—Those who collect records of the doings at this long-standing place of amusement, will have two novelties to add, in the shape of a superior ballet company, and the appearance there of all the principal singers from her Majesty's Theatre. Several new dioramic pictures have been put up, the amusements are numerous, the lights numberless, and all the arrangements such as make a visit to the gardens on a fine night very pleasant. A curious system of mirrors is exhibited, wherein they are made to take different brilliant colours by the interposition of coloured media before a central light. They might be useful as signals.

Baths and Washhouses.—From the returns issued by the "Committee for Promoting the Establishment of Baths and Washhouses for the Labouring Classes," it appears that during the month ended July, 1852, the receipts at the six metropolitan establishments have amounted to the sum of 2,768*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* against 1,506*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* in the same period last year. The number of bathers was 199,934 against 104,856 in the corresponding month of 1851; showing an increase of 1,262*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* in money, and 95,078 bathers. In the same month of 1848, the first year of the "model" establishment being opened, the number was 7,934 bathers, and the receipts then amounted to 91*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* only.—Virtues are "catching" as well as vices.

Notices of Books.

A Practical Treatise on Chimneys: with a few Remarks on Stoves, the Consumption of Smoke and Coal, Ventilation, &c. By G. F. Eckstein. London: Weale. 1852.

It certainly must be a difficult thing to construct a chimney and fire-place certain not to smoke, or there would not be so many persons trying to tell us how to do it. The book before us is mainly a collection of cases setting forth the success with which Mr. Eckstein has improved certain flues under certain circumstances. If it professed to deal with principles, we should not be able to excuse the statement that "there is no disposition in smoke to go up a flue *unless that flue is warm*." It would be as correct to say that a piece of cork will not rise from the bottom to the top of a pint pot filled with water unless the pint pot be warm!

The chief deduction that he draws from his facts are, that flues are generally built too small, and that the shorter the flue is, the *larger* it should be. He says,—

"Kitchen chimneys with small fire-places should not be less than 14 inches by 9; and if the opening of the fire-place exceed 3 feet 6 inches in width, the chimney should be 14 inches square, or 18 inches by 9, whichever may be most convenient in the arrangement of the building, only providing that the flue have an area of about 200 square inches. But the square chimney is preferable, it being more suitable to the brush for sweeping than is 18 inches by 9. If the opening of the fire-place exceed 6 feet in width, the chimney shaft should be 18 inches by 14, or of an area of about 250 square inches. If the chimney shaft be less than 36 feet in height, the sizes should be severally 14 inches square, 18 inches by 14, and 18 inches square, in lieu of the above dimensions.

Dining-room, or ground floor, and drawing-room, or first-floor chimneys in lofty houses, may be built in the usual way, 14 inches by 9.

Upper stories, the chimneys of which are usually 10 feet or more shorter than the drawing-room floor, should have them 14 inches square.

Attic chimneys should be still larger, till near the top, where they should be reduced, to keep out the weather, or to receive a chimney-pot.

Cottage buildings, or detached houses which are usually low, should not have any chimney less than 14 inches square, and the upper floor 18 by 14. When chimneys are exposed to the air and damp, by being in an external wall, it will be a considerable advantage if the brickwork can be left 9 inches thick between the flue and external air, instead of 4½ inches, as is usual.

If a kitchen fire-place be required in the upper part of a house, and consequently the chimney cannot be long, it must be made up in size. I would recommend two flues of the dimensions given for low buildings, or one flue of double these given dimensions; the top to be reduced to about 150 square inches, or, if two flues, about 150 square inches for the two."

This is his argument:—

"As a 24-inch cube of wood will, if immersed in water, support more weight than one of 12 inches, by displacing eight times as much water; and as a piece of board, 24 inches square, will support upon water four times as much as one 12 inches; or, as a balloon of large dimensions, filled with light gas, will carry up with it more weight than one of less bulk; or, as a pump with a large barrel will, when the bucket or plunger is removed, make a larger vacuum, or will allow more water to follow it, by the pressure of air upon the surface of the water in the well or tank, than a smaller one, so will a flue of large dimensions, when heated, be more powerful than a less one of the same temperature (the case being analogous to the action of water in a pump, &c.): the air in the heated flue being of less specific gravity than that in the room, and being disposed to rise, is closely followed and acted upon by the more dense air in the room pressing forward towards the mouth of the flue."

Quarterly Return of the Marriages, Births, and Deaths Registered in the Divisions, Counties, and Districts of England. Marriages, Jan. Feb. March, 1852. Births and Deaths, April, May, June, 1852. Published by authority of the Registrar-General.

Under the head of "State of Public Health," in the last issue of the Registrar-General's most instructive and useful reports, we find it stated that "the deaths in the Spring quarter were 100,813, and the mortality was at the rate of 2·227 per cent. per annum, which is slightly above the average of the season. The excess of deaths was chiefly in the town districts, which still maintain their fatal pre-eminence over the country in destroying the lives of the population. The rate of mortality in the 506 districts, comprising chiefly small towns and country parishes, was 2·052; in the 117 town districts 2·436; so that out of the same population, for every 4 deaths in the districts where the air and water are comparatively pure, there are nearly 5 deaths in London and our other towns, where all the sanitary arrangements are still left so imperfect that no improvement sensibly affecting the rate of mortality has hitherto been effected. In the three months that have elapsed 46,357 deaths have been registered in the town districts in the place of 40,000, who would have died if the mortality had not exceeded 2 per cent.; a standard of salubrity by no means high or unattainable. The season has been unusually cold, but food has been abundant, and from the notes of the Registrars generally it may be inferred that the people are actively employed."

The worldly prosperity of the industrious order throughout the country is doubtless enhanced, to those who remain in it, by the departure of an immense tide of emigration, flowing in a startling, though not clearly determined, excess to the advents by birth whereby the country is mainly recruited. "As the births in the quarter were 159,136, the deaths 100,813, the increase of population by natural causes is 58,323. The increase in the previous quarter was 55,094; in the corresponding quarter of 1851, 59,499. In the quarter ending June 30th, 1852, 125,112 emigrants sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom at which there are emigration agents: 21,890 sailed from Irish ports, 8,687 from the Scotch ports of Glasgow and Greenock, and 94,535 from English ports; namely, 3,294 from Plymouth, 15,304 from London, and 76,007 from Liverpool.* It is known that a large but unknown proportion of the emigrants from Liverpool are of Irish origin; but the birthplace is not distinguished in the abstracts."

There are numerous meteorological notes in these Returns which must be extremely useful to all interested in the state of the weather and the returns of the seasons. To those also who meditate change of residence, whether temporary or permanent, the notes and statistics from all parts of the country on the health, &c. of towns must be valuable.

Penny Maps: a new Series, in large quarto, completed in twenty-five Parts. Part XXV. Chapman and Hall. Piccadilly. 1852.

The Penny Map Atlas is now complete. It comprises a hundred maps, each of its twenty-five parts containing four. The whole may be had coloured as well as plain, and from the care and distinctness with which it is prepared, this Atlas is to the people at large a decided acquisition: it is, *par excellence*, the people's atlas, and it must especially, we should think, be useful in schools, although containing a vast deal more than will usually there be compassed or made good use of.

Insufficiency of Scaffolding.—A fortnight ago, a poor fellow named John Roberts (in whom we were interested), at work as a plasterer at some houses in Hackney-fields, was handing up a board from one part of the scaffold to another, when the putlog, a crooked one, came out: he fell 30 feet, and died two days after in consequence, leaving a widow and five children. Without having any evidence to throw blame on the master, we are told the scaffold was slight, and we would make this occurrence the opportunity to impress upon masters the obligation of providing efficient scaffolding and appliances to avoid risk, and on workmen the necessity for care and thoughtfulness. In the present case, it is to be hoped that the contractor and employer will find means to alleviate the distress of the bereaved survivors.

* From a return with which the Registrar-General has been favoured by the Emigration Commissioners.

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